

Security Information
SECRETPSYCHOLOGICAL STRATEGY BOARD
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.Copy No.
D-33/1

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January 15, 1953

FIRST REGIONS REVIEW OF THE
STATE OF DOCTRINAL WARFARE

1. The Doctrinal Warfare Panel, authorized by the Board at its 15th meeting (9/11/52) has had five meetings at which tentative terms of reference and definitions have been accepted. It has also heard representatives of IIA who described the little doctrinal warfare which the United States is currently executing. Efforts are in process to analyze the doctrinal warfare aspects of the USAR strategy.

2. The Communists have extensively used doctrinal warfare as a long-range instrument to win supporters among the intellectual elite in strategic areas. In conducting this doctrinal warfare, they have concentrated on books, reprints and high-level magazines. While the Communists have extensively used doctrinal warfare, the panel has found that the United States is doing little in this field. Doctrinal materials appear in Voice of America output and in certain non-attributable activities. IIA also includes some doctrinal material in its book program. While it has not formalized any conclusions, the panel is convinced that much can be accomplished by American doctrinal warfare and that in the near future warbox agencies will have to give greater doctrinal emphasis to their psychological activities.

3. National Policy, in NSC 68/2 and 135/3, establishes objectives which may be pursued by means of doctrinal warfare. In the course of its inquiries, the panel has found that doctrinal warfare is highly complex and requires thorough preparation. The panel is now engaged in determining the acceptable definitions, the targets, and the vulnerabilities of hostile ideologies. On the basis of findings, the panel will outline the psychological strategy plan for doctrinal warfare. The panel expects to complete its inquiries and to formulate a plan for presentation to the Director of RPB by the end of April.

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